MARVEL COMICS

# PETER PARKER™ SPIDER-MAN®

#10

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## CRY VENOM! CRY VENGEANCE!

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DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE MANHATTAN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY --

--THERE EXISTS A MAXIMUM SECURITY SUB-LEVEL.

HERE THE MOST DANGEROUS OF SUPER-VILLAINS ARE GUARDED, WITH THE MOST STATE-OF-THE-ART WEAPONRY, AROUND THE CLOCK, WHILE THEY AWAIT PROCESSING TO OTHER FACILITIES.

TODAY THERE IS ONLY ONE PRISONER.

PRISONER #5769213.

A PRISONER WHO CAUSES A CHILL TO RUN THROUGH EVEN THE MOST SEASONED OF THESE TACTICAL CORRECTIONAL SPECIALISTS.

THROUGHOUT THEIR EIGHT HOUR SHIFTS ONE CAN ALMOST HEAR THE MANTRA RUNNING THROUGH THEIR HEADS.

"NOT ON MY SHIFT! PLEASE NOT ON MY SHIFT!"

CLETUS KASADY:

ALL OTHER SERIAL KILLERS AND MASS MURDERERS PALE BY COMPARISON TO THIS DIMINUTIVE RED-HEADED MAN.

BUT NO OTHER SERIAL KILLER HAS EVER FORMED A SYMBIOTIC BOND WITH AN ALIEN LIFE FORM WHICH GRANTED THEM INSANELY SUPER-HUMAN POWERS.

NO OTHER SERIAL KILLER WAS... CARNAGE!

OH, BOYS...

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...BOO!
LOOK AT YOU HIDING BEHIND YOUR BIG BAD ARMOR!
LET'S SEE HOW BIG AND BRAVE YOU'LL ALL BE WITHOUT THESE SONIC DISRUPTERS...
...KEEPING ME FROM COMPLETELY BONDING WITH MY SYMBIOTE!

SHUT UP!
OKAY, BUDDY, YOU CAN MOP UP IN HERE, BUT BE QUICK ABOUT IT.

AND STAY AWAY FROM KASADY'S CELL.

THE LAST JANITOR WHO GOT TOO CLOSE TO HIS CELL...
NYDOC

JUST BE QUICK ABOUT IT.

DON'T WORRY, OFFICERS, I'M ONLY GOING TO GET AS CLOSE AS...

...ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!
HI THERE, CLETUS! MISS US?
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
VENOM TRIUMPHANT!
VENOM?
WHAT--? HOW --?
HEY, EDDIE! LONG TIME NO SEE! YOU COME TO BREAK ME OUT OR WHAT?
MACKIE ROMITAJR
HANNA COMICRAFT
ROSAS
MACCHIO
HARRASDID
ALLTHESTUFF

NO. YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO US, CLETUS.

WHO ME? WHAT DO I HAVE THAT YOU WOULD --

NO! NO! NO! NOT THAT! YOU CAN'T!

Oh, YES!

YOUR SYMBIOTE IS AN OFFSPRING OF OURS... OUR CHILD... IT DESERVES BETTER THAN YOU.

WE'RE HERE TO TAKE IT BACK!

NO!

OOPSY DAISY! YOU SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN ONE LITTLE THING, EDDIE!

WHAT?
IT AIN'T POSSIBLE! HOW COULD YOU --?

BECAUSE WE ARE THE BEST, CLETUS!
AND EVEN ALL THEIR SONIC GUNS AND FLAME THROWERS ARE NOT GOING TO STOP US FROM RECLAIMING WHAT'S OURS!
NO! EDDIE! DON'T!
PLEASE? WE COULD BE A TEAM! YEAH! VENOM AND CARNAGE! THAT'S IT!
NO ONE COULD STOP US!

NO ONE WILL, CLETUS. BUT...
...YOU'RE NOT PART OF US!

NOOOOOO!

WE WERE NEVER ALIKE, CLETUS.
YOU KILLED ANYONE FOR FUN!
WE KILL THOSE WHO DESERVE IT! AND THAT'S MORE FUN!
NO NO NO NO

WELCOME HOME, BABY!

Urp!

ELSEWHERE...
HOME
PETER! BE CAREFUL!

WHAT SORT OF WELCOME HOME WOULD IT BE FOR MARY JANE IF YOU BROKE YOUR NECK?

YES, AUNT MAY.
SO, JILL, YOU'RE SURE IT'S TONIGHT THAT MJ'S FLIGHT GETS IN?
THAT'S WHAT HER MESSAGE SAID, PETER. BUT SHE DIDN'T LEAVE THE FLIGHT NUMBER.
I THINK YOU WANT TO GO JUST A LITTLE HIGHER ON THE RIGHT.

I'VE... GOT... IT!
OPS!

GOT TO REMEMBER THAT AUNT MAY AND JILL HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT MY SECRET IDENTITY AS SPIDER-MAN, SO NO SAVING MYSELF WITH MY SPIDER AGILITY.
NO CHOICE BUT TO --

FALLING!
DON'T WORRY! I'VE GOT YOU --

OOLPH!

Er... THANKS... I...
SURE YOU OKAY?

OH MY!
JILL, DEAR, YOU ARE STILL OKAY WITH DROPPING ME OFF AT ANNA WATSON'S HOUSE BACK IN QUEENS... AREN'T YOU?
WE DO WANT TO GIVE PETER AND MARY JANE A LITTLE ALONE TIME.

Er... ABSOLUTELY, Ms. PARKER!
AS A MATTER OF FACT WE PROBABLY CAN HEAD OFF NOW.
I'M SURE PETER WANTS TO TAKE SOME TIME TO FRESHEN UP BEFORE MJ GETS HOME.

YOU DON'T MIND THAT, DO YOU, AUNT MAY?
YOU SEEM TO BE HEADING OUT THERE AN AWFUL LOT.

WELL... I SOMETIMES DO MISS THE OLD PLACE. THERE ARE SO MANY GOOD MEMORIES WRAPPED UP IN THOSE WALLS...
NOT THAT I DON'T APPRECIATE YOU AND MARY JANE PUTTING ME UP HERE, MIND YOU.

WELL... THANKS... BOTH OF YOU. I THINK THIS IS GOING TO BE GOOD.
MJ AND I HAVE LOTS TO TALK ABOUT.
AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO INTERRUPTIONS!

ESPECIALLY FROM WHOEVER IT IS THAT'S BEEN MAKING ALL THE OBSCENE PHONE CALLS.

I THINK TONIGHT IS GOING TO BE PERFECT!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

SO! HERE WE ARE...

...ONE, BIG, HAPPY FAMILY!

WHAT SHALL WE DO FIRST?

BEST CHECK OUR TO DO LIST AND...

GS TO DO
LL MY LANDLORD
2. KILL SPIDER-MAN
3. GET SYMBIOTE BACK FROM CARNAGE
KILL SPIDER-MAN
ESTROY THE
ILY BUGLE
SPIDER-MAN
PIDER-MAN

SO MUCH TO DO AND SO LITTLE TIME.

I WONDER HOW JOLLY JONAH JAMESON IS DOING THESE DAYS?

AND...
IS IT ROMANTIC ENOUGH, OR JUST GOOFY? MJ AND I DON'T EVEN LIKE CHAMPAGNE!

SORRY, BUDDY, BUT A BOTTLE OF SODA WOULD HAVE RUINED THE MOOD YOU'RE TRYING TO SET.
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.

YOU AND MJ LOVE EACH OTHER.
I'M DOUBLE-PARKED, AUNT MAY IS WAITING, SO...
...YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN!

JUST REMEMBER...
...I'M SORRY, MJ... I WAS WRONG, MJ... HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO INSENSITIVE, MJ.

YOU'LL BE FINE! YOU GUYS ARE SO LUCKY TO HAVE EACH OTHER. MJ ISN'T GOING TO LET YOU GO. SHE'LL JUST MAKE YOU SQUIRM A LITTLE.

THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF.

NOW WHAT?

DO I REALLY JUST SIT AND WAIT FOR MARY JANE TO COME HOME...

...SO THAT I CAN GROVEL OVER BEING SO INSENSITIVE TO HER NEEDS...

...TO MISSING THE PLANE TRIP WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE US ON OUR SECOND HONEYMOON?

WE'RE TOO YOUNG TO HAVE HAD A *FIRST* HONEYMOON FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!

OR DO I PRACTICE HOW I'M GOING TO CONFESS LYING TO HER ABOUT MY GOING BACK TO BEING SPIDER-MAN?

I'M SURE *THAT'LL* GO OVER GREAT!

*OR* DO I SPEND THE TIME FIGURING OUT HOW TO TELL HER THAT I KNOW ABOUT THE PHONE CALLS AND SUSPECT THAT *DESPITE* EDDIE BROCK'S DENYING IT... I THINK *HE* IS BEHIND THEM?

THAT COULD LEAD TO THE *HILARIOUS* STORY OF THE RETURN OF THE SYMBIOTE AND, *ULTIMATELY*, THANKS TO MY INGENIOUS BIT OF DETECTIVE WORK WHICH LEADS IT BACK TO BROCK... THE RETURN OF *VENOM!*

YOU REMEMBER HIM, MJ? THE GUY THAT HAS ALMOST SUCKED THE BRAINS OUT OF MY SKULL A COUPLE OF DOZEN TIMES?

YEAH! LIKE I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY!

MAYBE I'LL JUST STICK TO JILL'S BASIC PLAN... THE SIMPLE *TRUTH* WITH *LOTS* OF GROVELING.

MJ AND I HAVE *ALWAYS* BEEN TOTALLY TRUTHFUL WITH EACH OTHER.

WHAT WAS I *THINKING?*

I'LL TELL HER *EVERYTHING...* AND WE'LL MOVE ON.

WHAT THE --?
VENOM!
WHAT ARE THE ODDS! I MEAN... THIS IS A HUGE CITY! WHY COULDN'T HE GO SWINGING PAST AVENGERS MANSION...

...OR IN THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S NEIGHBORHOOD! EVEN Mr. ROGERS' NEIGHBORHOOD WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE TONIGHT!

I COULD JUST LEAVE HIM TO SOMEONE ELSE.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE EVER BEEN ABLE TO PERMANENTLY STOP HIM!

WHERE IS THE PUNISHER WHEN YOU NEED HIM?
WHY DO I NEVER GET A BREAK?!

AT THAT MOMENT, AT THE TAXI TERMINAL OF JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...
THE UPPER EAST SIDE?
SURE, LADY. GET IN.
AMERICAN

WHERE TO, MS. WATSON?
YOU RECOGNIZED ME?

WHO WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD?


Er... THANKS. JUST TAKE ME OVER THE 59TH STREET BRIDGE. I'LL GIVE YOU DIRECTIONS WHEN WE GET THERE.


SURE THING.
CAN NEVER BE TOO CAREFUL WITH ALL THE NUTS WALKING AROUND THESE DAYS.

RIGHT.
YOU HAVE A COLD?

JUST A LITTLE THROAT THING. DOC SAYS IT'LL CLEAR UP AND I'LL BE SINGING AGAIN REAL SOON.
JUST SIT BACK AND RELAX, MS. PARKER...

TERMINAL A PARKING
AIRPORT EXIT
...I'LL HAVE YOU WHERE YOU BELONG IN NO TIME.

THE DAILY BUGLE.
ONE OF NEW YORK CITY'S TOP-SELLING NEWSPAPERS.
YOU CALL THESE PHOTOCOPIES?!
SOMETIMES IT SEEMS TO BE SUCCESSFUL DESPITE ITS COLORFUL PUBLISHER.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M PAYING AN INCOMPETENT LIKE YOU MY HARD-EARNED MONEY FOR SUCH SLOPPY WORKMANSHIP!
YOU DON'T PAY ME, Mr. JAMESON... I'M AN INTERN!
WHAT? WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE I WOULD HAVE PAID FOR A JOB LIKE THIS! HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR POCKETS?
BLUE OASIS WATER
WHERE D'YA WANT THE WATER?
WHAT?
I DON'T CARE! PUT IT WHEREVER YOU WANT!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, JONAH!
KRAK

SPLOOSH
WHAT IN THE --?!

HOWDY, JONAH? SURPRISED TO SEE ME?

B-B-BROCK!
NO NEED TO STAND ON FORMALITY WITH US, JONAH! YOU CAN CALL US VENOM.
ANYWAY, WE'RE BOTH OLD-TIME NEWSPAPER MEN... EXCUSE ME... I WAS BEFORE YOUR PAPER MADE ME A LAUGHING-STOCK!

IN THE LINGO OF OUR TRADE...
KRASH
THIS JUST IN...
...FAMED NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER KIDNAPPED BY INSANE SUPER-VILLAIN! DEATH IS IMMINENT!

SEE WHAT I'VE BEEN REDUCED TO, JONAH? BACK TO WRITING OBITS. LIKE SOME CUB REPORTER.
WHAT'S THAT I'M HEARING, JONAH... PRAYING? WELL THEN...
...HAVE I GOT THE PLACE FOR YOU!
I JUST LOVE THIS PLACE!
ALWAYS HAVE.
SPENT A LOT OF TIME IN THIS VERY CHURCH PRAYING FOR SALVATION AFTER YOU AND YOUR PAPER SMEARED MY NAME ALL OVER ITS PAGES.
THIS IS THE VERY PLACE WE, MY SYMBIOTE AND I, MET.
COME ON, JONAH, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A FIGHTING CHANCE. MORE THAN YOU EVER DID FOR ANYONE!
SINCE YOU CLAIMED, IN ONE OF YOUR FAMED EDITORIALS, THAT I WAS UNBALANCED...
...I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO PROVE JUST HOW BALANCED YOU ARE.
CLIMB DOWN FROM UP THERE, WITHOUT SLIPPING TO YOUR DEATH, AND YOU GET TO LIVE. DON'T AND... WELL, I'LL LIGHT A CANDLE FOR YOU.
LET'S MOVE IT, JONAH! WE'VE GOT THINGS TO DO... PEOPLE TO KILL!
BYE-BYE, JONAH!
THWAP

SHAME ON YOU, VENOM! PICKING ON A POOR... INNOCENT... NEVER MIND!

OH! THIS COULDN'T GET ANY BETTER!

WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR SHOWING UP, SPIDER-MAN!

YOU WERE NEXT ON OUR LIST!

YEAH! YEAH! YEAH! LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH, VENOM!

WHAT? NO WITTY REJOINDER? NO DISTRACTING JOKES?

COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE SCARED OF US?

COULD YOU SENSE THAT WE ARE STRONGER THAN EVER?

MAYBE YOU'RE UPSET THAT YOU HAD NO TIME TO SET UP A SNEAKY LITTLE TRAP FOR US?

OR DOES THE CAT HAVE YOUR TONGUE?

WE HOPE NOT!

WE WERE SAYING *THAT* TASTY LITTLE TREAT FOR *OURSELVES!*

HOW *NICE* OF YOU TO JOIN JONAH IN HIS *DEATH,* SPIDER-MAN!

*YOU* WERE THE CAUSE OF ALL THE PAIN AND SUFFERING THAT CAME DOWN ON EDDIE BROCK.

SUFFERING THAT JAMESON *EXPLOITED* IN THAT *RAG* OF HIS!

EDDIE BROCK WAS A *FINE* INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST!

THE *SIN-EATER* EXPOSE WAS TO BE THE STORY OF A LIFETIME.

HE HAD A CONFESSION FROM A MAN WHO CLAIMED TO BE THE *ONE* WHO KILLED POLICE CAPTAIN JEAN DeWOLFE!

BUT THEN *YOU* HAD TO FIND THE *REAL* KILLER! HAD TO *DISGRACE* BROCK! HAD TO... HAD TO...

...YOU HAVE TO *DIE!*

*MISSED* ME!

TIME TO MOVE THIS FIGHT *INSIDE,* BUG!

I WANT YOU TO *DIE* IN THE VERY CHURCH WHERE I *PRAYED* FOR DEATH!

THE CHURCH IN WHICH I WAS SENT A MESSENGER OF GOD.

WHERE *I* BECAME *WE*.

WHERE EDDIE BROCK BECAME *VENOM!*

KRAK!
Hmmmm?
THE BELLS?
THE ONLY TWO WEAKNESSES THAT VENOM HAS ARE FIRE AND LOUD SOUNDS...
THE BELLS!
I DID IT ONCE BEFORE... IN THIS VERY CHURCH...
...ALL I'VE GOT TO DO TO SEPARATE THE SYMBIOTE FROM BROCK IS RING THE --
-- THEY'RE NOT RINGING! THE BELLS AREN'T --
ACKK!

DID YOU THINK WE WERE GOING TO FALL FOR *THAT* ONE AGAIN?
WE REMOVED THE CLAPPERS EARLIER IN THE DAY... JUST IN CASE YOU SHOWED.
IT'S JUST YOU AND US, SPIDER-MAN. NO TRICKS. NO SOUND WAVES. NOTHING BUT *DEATH!*

AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
AFTER WE'VE EATEN YOUR BRAINS AND SUCKED THE MARROW FROM YOUR BONES...
...WE'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO BOTHER LOOKING UNDER THE MASK.

WE *USED* TO KNOW WHO YOU WERE.
USED TO HAVE FUN PLAYING WITH YOU, BUT, AFTER TODAY --
URP!
NONE OF IT WILL MATT --
URP!

TELL ME ONE THING THOUGH... WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS? *URP?* WHY -- URP! -- PROTECT JAMESON WHEN HE'S *NEVER* DONE *ANYTHING* FOR YOU?
NEVER BEEN NOTHING BUT *GRIEF* TO YOU. HE'S TREATED *YOU* AS BADLY IN PRINT AS HE'S TREATED *ME!*

WHY NOT LET ME KILL HIM. WHY NOT SEE YOUR ENEMY DIE BEFORE YOU?

BECAUSE I'M NOT YOU! NO MATTER WHAT HE THINKS!

HOW <URP!> HEROIC <URP!> EXCUSE <URP!> ME <URP!>!

IT MUST BE SOMETHING I ATE EARLIER TODAY!

TELL YOU WHAT I'M GOIN' TO DO! I'M GOING TO LET YOU TWO LIVE WHILE I RESOLVE THIS LITTLE FAMILY MATTER.

BUT KNOW THAT I'M COMING BACK.

KNOW THAT I WILL GET TO YOU BOTH.

ANY.

TIME.

I.

WANT.

YOU GET ME DOWN FROM HERE, WEBSLINGER!

DO YOU HEAR ME!

DON'T YOU PASS OUT ON ME! DON'T YOU --

-- THE MASK. IT WOULD BE SO EASY.

AFTER ALL THIS TIME. I'D KNOW...

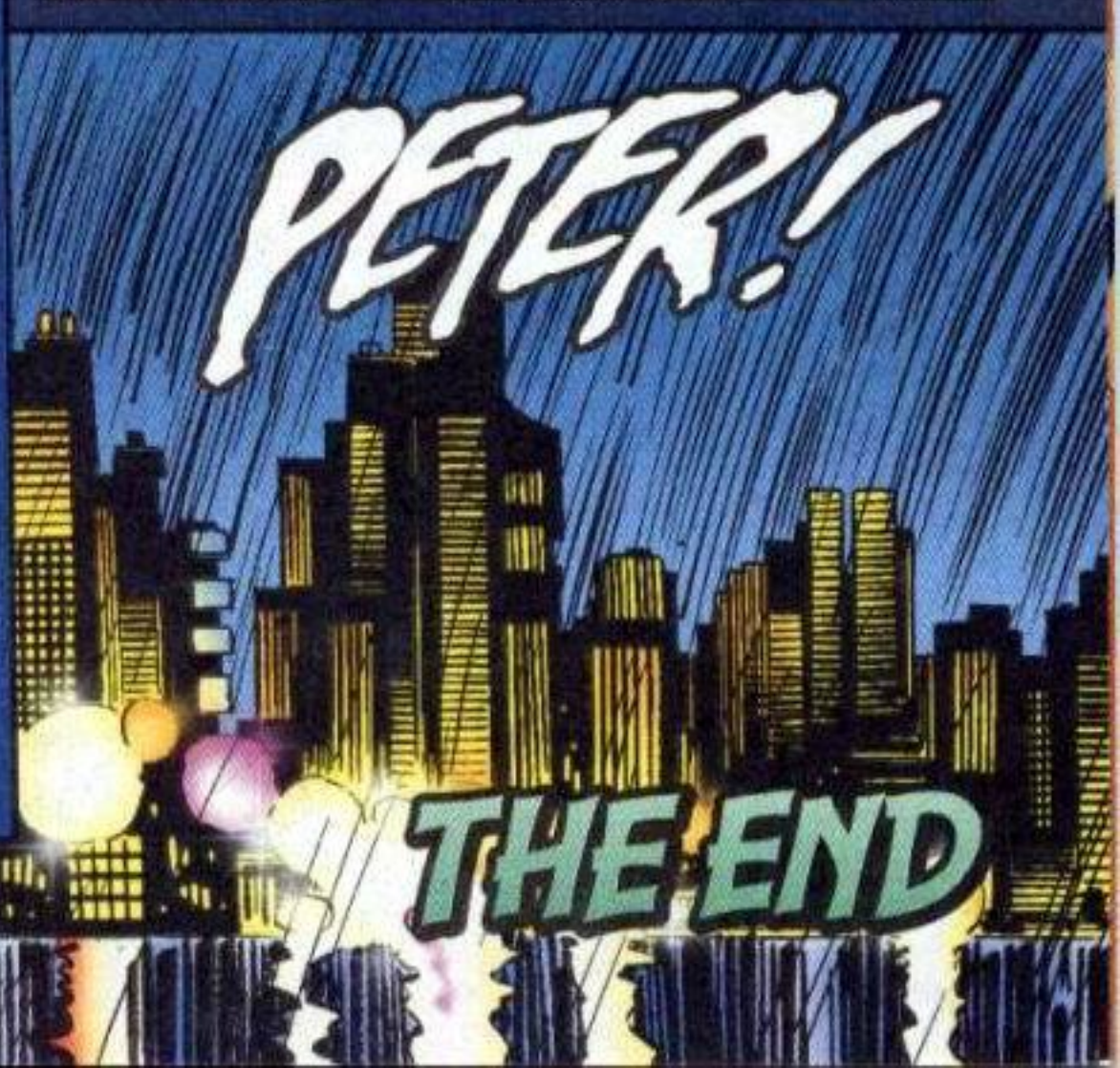
AT THAT MOMENT, MARY JANE ARRIVES HOME...
PETER?

PETER I'M --
ROLLING

KRRRING

WELCOME HOME, MARY JANE. YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM ME.

I'LL BE COMING FOR YOU SOON! BUT YOUR HUSBAND...
...HE'S GOING TO GO FIRST!


PETER!
THE END

# CRAWLSPACE

Dear *CrawlSpace*,

I am pleased to say that PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN have jumped up there with the X-Men titles on my list of top comics I buy each month. It would be nice to see a crossover with Wolverine. Mr. Pelaez said in issue #6's *CrawlSpace* that Spider-Man cleaned up the floor with Wolverine in SECRET WARS. Now, I don't know exactly what the situation was then, but I think that, as savage as ol' Wolvie is now, he would fight Spidey to a standstill. Cable is making an appearance in the new issue of WOLVERINE, and now there's a limited series starring Wolverine and the Punisher. It's time for a Wolvie/Spidey crossover or mini-series. But of course, Spidey has more to worry about than Wolvie right now.

Something is up. Somebody is harassing Mary Jane by phone and he needs to be stopped. Peter needs to be notified about this. The next thing I'm worried about is Flash Thompson. At the end of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #6, he is obviously distressed. Maybe there is a connection between Flash's stalking (and walking around the next day in a trance in PPSM #6) and MJ's prank phone calls. I've heard that super-models are often stalked.

I like the way that PPSM ties into ASM, but please don't get carried away with it! I stopped collecting last when there were six Spidey titles a month. Two titles a month is fine. I'd also like to add that it's nice that Howard Mackie writes both Spider-Man books. I have always been impressed by his writing. I'm even more impressed by John Romita Jr. and John Byrne; Spidey is not always the easiest character to draw.

Thanks for your time and, until Peter starts dressing in drag and takes over the *Jerry Springer Show*, Make Mine Marvel!

T.J. Horner
St. Louis, MO

**You hear that, Ralf? They want a SPIDER-MAN VS. WOLVERINE limited series. Ooops. Silly us. It's before noon and Ralf isn't in yet. However, considering that the last time Spidey and Wolvie teamed up for a one-shot, a major supporting character was brutally killed, you may want to reconsider your request.**

**And for anyone else who's a little fuzzy on the details of Spidey's encounter with Wolverine in the aforementioned SECRET WARS, be on the lookout for a new edition of the trade paperback, available in September.**

Dear *CrawlSpace*,

I'll start off small. PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN #6, last page, first panel. I personally think Spidey should have said, "Maybe you'll live to blame me for this one too, Ward." I don't know....it just didn't seem to fit. I guess that's just one more thing you can blame on Ralf!

J.C. Simmons
gostrydr@mindspring.com

**Nice e-mail address, J.C. Anyone else pick up on it?**

**By the by, we're not sure we agree with your contention about that line of dialogue, but if it results in the blaming of Ralf, we're behind it all the way!**

Dear *CrawlSpace*,

PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN #6 was a little gem. The high point was that Spider-Man was actually fighting a villain in Bullseye who actually seemed to threaten him. The dialogue was well-written, too, especially when Spider-Man asked Bullseye if he was back to being Kingpin's whipping boy. And it's nice to see the Kingpin back being the Kingpin again.

The cover was very nice, although the color scheme was too similar to the previous issue's. Not that it really matters; just an observation.

Okee-dokee. I've got a couple of questions, in no particular order:

2. Will we be seeing any of these old-timers again: Sha Shan, Candi, Randi and Bambi, Deb Whitman, the Foreigner, Cloak & Dagger, Silver Sable, and Jessica Carradine?

4. Will we be seeing any new exciting, never-before-seen villains? No losers, please.

1. Will we be seeing Spider-Man acting more like a detective?

3. A marriage somewhere in the Spider-Man family of characters, perhaps? Maybe Betty Brant? What about Flash? How about the Vulture and Auntie Freeze? Black Cat and Spot?

5. What ever happened to letter writers Joey Marchese, Olav Beemer and Elvis Orten? Are they being held captive by Doctor Doom?

I do have to add that John Romita Jr.'s art is really good. I've always liked his work, but didn't care for it on this title at first. But now all is groovy. And how can you not notice his artwork on THOR? It's magical! I haven't read this many THOR issues in a row in a long time!

Brendan Walsh
Chicago, IL

**Thanks for the letters, Brendan. And now, to answer your questions, *in particular order*:**

**1. We'll let you figure that one out.**

**2. There's always a chance, but probably not anytime soon.**

**3. Black Cat and Spot? Only if it were raining cats and dogs.**

**4. Yes, but no promises.**

**5. We were just wondering that ourselves. Guys...are you still out there?**

Dear Ralf,

While I am a huge fan of John Byrne (and who isn't?), I find myself gravitating to this book as my Spider-Man title of choice. Byrne's simple, clean stories, narration, and artistic style are nicely suited for SPIDER-MAN: CHAPTER ONE book. Don't get me wrong. I admire John's ability to go out on the occasional limb and take some genuine risks when dealing with a character. And I truly hope he and Mr. Mackie do some of that with Peter Parker in this title's Amazing counterpart. However, it is here in PPSM that I feel that true drama is unfolding.

Howard Mackie's writing style seems very natural and is starting to create a real mood for this title. There's a gentleness in his handling of Peter's real life which juxtaposes nicely with the harsh reality of his Spider-Man identity. I feel it creates a more visceral dynamic between these two very disparate aspects of Peter's life. Right now, his dual nature manages to maintain some semblance of balance, but I can't help but feel that all this is about to change with the reemergence of the Kingpin.

While starting out as a Spider-Man antagonist, the Kingpin reached his villainous zenith in the pages of Daredevil. What a joy to see John Romita Jr. drawing him again. While I may come off as heretical, and with all due reverence to Frank Miller, I consider JR Jr. the quintessential Daredevil artist. He captures the power and plumbs the evil depths of Wilson Fisk, visually, like no one else. Seeing him work on Bullseye was an extra special bonus. I hope both of these characters keep up a long series of appearances in this title.

I'm hopelessly hooked on this story and can't wait to find out just what's going on with Senator Ward. The intrigue generated in this issue has provoked a level of anticipation for reading Spider-Man that I haven't known in over a decade. Great job, everyone.

Scot W. Myers
Decatur, GA
swmyers@aol.com

**Thanks for the kind words, Scot. We're obviously big fans of John Jr. ourselves, as is the inestimable Mr. Miller himself. Remember the outstanding DAREDEVIL: MAN WITHOUT FEAR limited series a few years back? It was written by Frank and drawn by John, and if you care a whit for ol' Hornhead it's in your collection already. If not, better hurry and scarf up a copy of the trade paperback! You won't be disappointed!**

## NEXT ISSUE:

IT'S PART THREE OF THE POWERHOUSE "EIGHTH DAY" CROSSOVER! WHAT'S SPIDEY DOING CAUGHT BETWEEN THE AVENGERS AND SEVERAL JABRONIS WHOSE POWERS ARE SUSPICIOUSLY SIMILAR TO THE JUGGERNAUT'S? PLUS: THE SECRET BEHIND MJ'S PHONE CALLS REVEALED, AND SENATOR WARD MAKES A POWER PLAY! ALL THIS, CRAMMED NICELY INTO 32 PAGES BY HOWARD, JOHN AND SCOTT. MEANWHILE, THE ONLY CRAMMING RALF WILL BE DOING IS OF HIS LUNCH INTO HIS MOUTH.

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